



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

2105 Grand Blvd. • Vancouver WA 98661 • (360) 695-6777 • Fax: (360) 908-6777/6777

July 23, 2002

TO: Chief Bjork
FROM: John Weinheimer, District 9 Fish Biologist *JW*
MEMO: Region 5 Enforcement

I feel compelled to write this memo to let you know how pleased and proud I am of the enforcement staff down here in Region 5. These folks have always been there when I needed them from high lake patrols to emphasis patrols. From the captain down through the officers they have made a difference in the success of fish management in my area. When I have asked for a special effort they have come through. I could give specific examples of every officer I have worked with. I wanted to write about one specific program concerning a fish that is listed under the Endangered Species Act and your program's involvement.

The Region 5 Enforcement program has been an integral part of our bull trout recovery efforts on the North Fork Lewis River. Our department has been working very hard since the late 1980's in increasing the number of bull trout in the watershed through research, monitoring, education, and enforcement of regulations protecting this threatened fish. All of this effort has paid off. For example in 1994 we estimated only 101 bull trout spawned above Swift Reservoir while in 2001 we estimated 542 adults spawned. We have been measuring a steadily increasing trend through the 90's through today. Your staff can take credit for this success.

Captain Murray Schlenker and his officers have consistently coordinated and maximized their efforts in patrolling the area for violations on bull trout. But also important has been the officer's presence in the area and the contacts they have made with the public informing them about why these fish are protected. Currently, thanks to Officer Jon Jeschke, I believe the first bull trout take case in Washington State is in Federal Court. Officer Jeschke was patrolling the upper Lewis with an officer from the U.S. Forest service in the fall of 2001. They contacted and arrested a person who was fishing and had several bull trout in his possession. Getting this case into Federal Court increases the level of protection for these fish. It has been Jon's tenaciousness that has made this possible.

In closing I just wanted to say thank you for the staff you have in Region 5. These folks are professionals and it shows. They make a difference.

cc: Craig Burley
Lee Van Tussenbrook